

BOOK NOTICE

Marvels of the Insect World. By Jean Henri Fabre. Edited, annotated and translated by Percy F. Bicknell. 12mo., cloth, 239 pp., illustrated with wood engravings by Robert Gibbings. N. Y., Appleton-Century Co., 1938. \$2.50.

The story of Jean Henri Fabre is so very well known and the various volumes and editions of his writings on entomological topics are so popular with the reading public that this, still another compilation from his writings, is quite certain to get a warm welcome. Fabre preferred to be called a naturalist rather than merely an entomologist; all nature was his province, including human nature. He was no narrow specialist. This gives to his printed pages a wide appeal. It also gives his writings additional breadth and fullness, and adds a unique maturity to his thought and utterance. His long life of some ninety-two years was devoted to the things of the intellect and the spirit. Nothing was ever permitted long to turn him away from his chosen pursuits, or his quiet, patient efforts to wrest from nature some of her obscure secrets. An idea of the general scope of the book under consideration may be gained by an enumeration of some of the more important subject subdivisions, such as: About insects; singing insects; metamorphosis; birth of the stag-beetle; sheath-winged insects; the sacred scarab and other beetles; butterflies; butterfly courtship; honey-bees; royal cells; swarms; ants; Amazon ants; flies and mosquitoes; bluebottles; oddities of natural history; spiders; ways of wasps; the eating habits of insects, and other topics of like kind. All those who have read other popular writings by Fabre along similar lines and pertaining to like topics, and who may admire the clearness of his literary style as well as the personal note struck here and there by the author—all those readers will get similar enjoyment from this little book. Its reading is commended.—J. S. W.